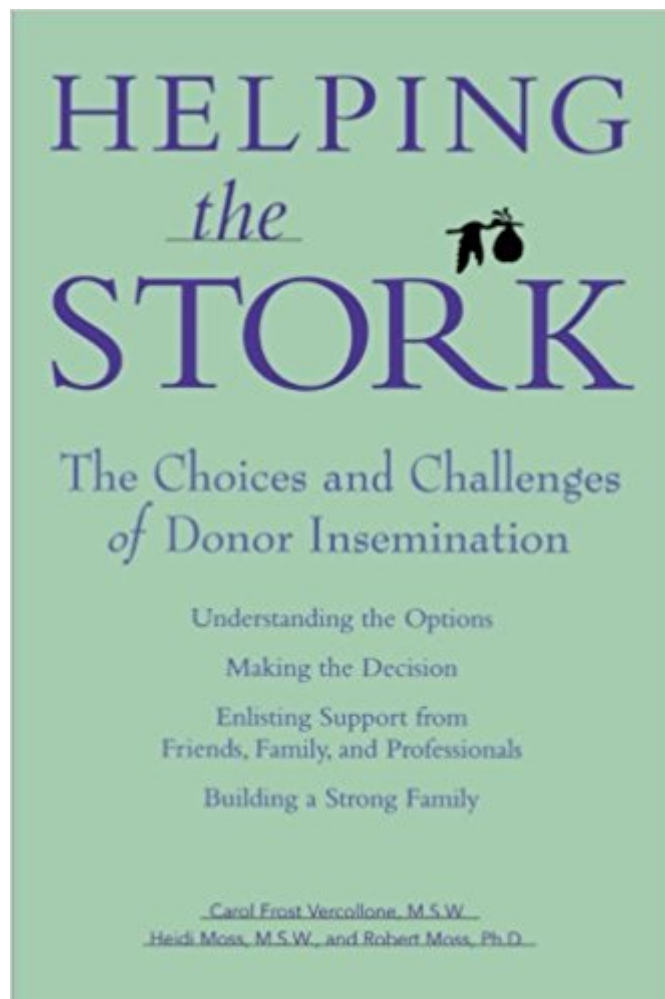




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# Helping The Stork: The Choices And Challenges Of Donor Insemination



## Synopsis

Helping the Stork The sourcebook for all the information parents-to-be need to know about the choices and challenges of donor insemination Each year donor insemination (DI) offers a pathway to parenthood for the hundreds of thousands who turn to family-building alternatives. Although DI is considered as often as adoption, couples facing male infertility, as well as single women and lesbian couples, have had few places to turn for information about this method, which has been shrouded in secrecy. In Helping the Stork, parents-to-be, as well as friends and family, doctors, and counselors, can explore the choices and challenges raised by this alternative to overcoming childlessness. This comprehensive handbook moves through each step of the process: reaching a solid decision about whether donor insemination is the best choice for a family's future; handling the difficult issue of privacy; selecting a donor and getting started; and learning to thrive as a family meeting DI's added challenges. Full of wisdom from medical and mental health experts, Helping the Stork is also enriched with stories from many families who share their insights and experiences. This book is a reassuring, supportive, and helpful guide that no one considering or going through the process of donor insemination should be without. Visit us online at <http://www.mcp.com/mgr>

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## Customer Reviews

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Carol Frost Vercollone, M.S.W., became the first clinical social worker to join the staff of the national infertility organization Resolve, and currently offers workshops for those involved with donor insemination. Heidi and Robert Moss have two children conceived with the help of a donor, and share their experiences throughout the book. Heidi created a DI hotline for a Resolve chapter, and earned her degree in social work in order to counsel parents-to-be Robert is a college biology professor and contributor to both science and education journals.

Thing one to know about this book: it is all about what the authors assume will be your emotional issues with choosing donor insemination. If you are not having serious trauma about choosing donor insemination, this book has little to offer. The authors assume that you will be traumatized, and that your trauma will emanate from mourning the loss of your imagined heterosexual biological nuclear family. The book gives only cursory acknowledgement of any situation other than a heterosexual couple facing male infertility, and devotes a lot of the book to ruminating on the male partner dealing with insecurity and loss. To the extent that it talks about lesbian or queer couples (it certainly does not consider the possibility that a single queer person might be interested in having a child), it mainly rhapsodizes on how challenged your family and friends might be, "working through the image of of a family with two moms" (20). The authors' heterosexist, myopic approach leaves almost no space for the wide array of possible family, donor, and life arrangements in which it is possible to raise a child. I think, even if I was straight, I would feel a little trapped by the authors' expectations of my emotions and life choices. Moreover, it doesn't address any of the practical, nuts and bolts kinds of things that all people who are considering donor insemination have to think

about--legal issues, what the pros and cons of various insemination methods are, etc. Seriously, almost nothing. The book drops some hints at what might be useful to know, like including a mention of cervical caps, but never actually explains what such a thing is and why it might be useful for donor insemination. What this book does offer might be useful to a subset of people. But if you are looking for any practical advice or if your life or goals deviate even slightly from, say, James Dobson's ideal family, then I would suggest looking elsewhere.

My wife and I have read this together as we started our journey with DI. Yes, the book does concentrate on heterosexual married couples, but it states that in the forward. Even if you aren't the norm, there is plenty of general info on DI that is useful for anyone using this method to create a family. Our favorite parts were the personal stories and experiences. They are sprinkled throughout the chapters and really gave us a chance to talk out some of our different thoughts and emotions. There is technical/medical information, but it is not very in-depth. Most of the book deals with the emotional aspect of DI. Overall I highly recommend it.

I was impressed by the authors of *Helping the Stork* -- they shared their story in an open and honest way. While the book seemed to lean towards favoring disclosure (which I happen to agree with) and known donor, I think they tried very hard to consider a variety of situations and rationales in a supportive and non-judgemental way. I do recommend this read.

This book is really more focussed on couples with fertility problems rather than single women choosing single motherhood. However, it did go in to some more technical detail which was helpful.

This book so far seems to be very insightful and interesting. It gives you various aspects on donor egg usage and how it effects different people and different situations. It's really good at giving women insight into how infertility effects men and how they deal with it emotionally. So far I really like the book and cannot wait to finish reading it.

I agree with other reviewers that this book focuses more on the emotional side than the technical. However, I can get all the technical information I need from my doctor. What this book gave me was a sense that there are a LOT of others out there who are doing what I'm doing. It also helped me focus on and deal with all the stress that the process brings with it. I think you can get a lot out of this book even if you are not the hetero couple that is more targeted by the examples. You still have

to deal with the issues between you and the child and the donor, no matter what your relationship is, and those chapters were very helpful.

Well written and very informative. It has helped me on my journey to becoming a choice single mother. I highly recommend it

Not a well written book. Confusing to read because it is basically just a list of thoughts. I didn't find it helpful.

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